



Warfare in the Central Sector, 1948-1968

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During the Cold War, the so-called Central Sector was the most significant potential battle area in Europe. A large number of states in the West and East prepared for the eventuality of a military confrontation in that area. The Netherlands Institute of Military History has organised a conference on this theme, that includes the cooperation of a number of international leading military historians who will give presentations on subjects such as perception of the enemy, intelligence, operational plans, logistic planning, training, exercises and mobilisation.

Date : 22-23 March 2007,
Location : Freiherr vom Stein-Saal
 Domplatz 36, Münster (Germany)

The Netherlands Institute of Military History (NIMH) – established on 1 July 2005 when the historical services of the Royal Netherlands Navy, Army, Air Force and Marechaussee were merged – is a specialised centre of expertise and research on the military history of the Netherlands. The Institute serves all those with an interest in the history of the Netherlands armed forces and has information on, among other things, operations in the past and present, at home and abroad and on land, at sea and in the air.

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In cooperation with the
 Militärgeschichtliches Forschungsamt,
 Potsdam.

And with support of the
 Zentrum für Niederlande-Studien,
 Westfälische Wilhelms-Universität,
 Münster and the Headquarters 1
 (German/Netherlands) Corps,
 Münster.

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A conference organised by the
 Netherlands Institute of Military History,
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Programme

Thursday 22 and Friday 23 March 2007
Freiherr vom Stein-Saal
Domplatz 36, Münster, Germany

Day 1

09.30 – 10.15 Welcome with coffee

Part 1: Opening and Introduction

10.15 – 10.30 A word of welcome from Dr P.H. Kamphuis, Director of the Netherlands Institute of Military History a.o.

10.30 – 11.00 Keynote speaker [former SACEUR/C-NORTHAG]

11.00 – 11.30 Setting the theme in a security-political context (Prof. Lawrence S. Kaplan, Kent State University/Georgetown University, United States of America)

11.30 – 12.00 Coffee break

Part 2: Operational Planning and Preparation

12.00 – 12.20 NATO planning (Dr Bruno Thoss, Militärgeschichtliches Forschungsamt, Potsdam, Germany)

12.20 – 12.40 Warsaw Pact planning (Dr Matthias Uhl, Deutsches Historisches Institut, Moscow, Russia)

12.40 – 13.00 Discussion

13.00 – 13.30 A visit to the Friedenssaal

13.30 – 15.00 Lunch

Part 3: Operational Intelligence

15.00 – 15.20 Intelligence within NATO (Prof. Dr Richard J. Aldrich, University of Nottingham, United Kingdom)

15.20 – 15.40 Intelligence within the Warsaw Pact (Dr Bodo Wegmann, Freie Universität Berlin, Germany)

15.40 – 16.00 Discussion

16.00 – 16.30 Coffee break

Part 4: Logistic Planning and Preparation

16.30 – 16.50 Logistics within NATO (Dr Herman Roozenbeek, Netherlands Institute of Military History, The Hague, Netherlands)

16.50 – 17.10 Logistics within the Warsaw Pact (Dr Pawel Piotrowski, Institute of National Remembrance, Poland)

17.10 – 17.30 Discussion

17.30 – 18.00 Transfer to the officers mess of Headquarters 1 (GE/NL) Corps

18.00 – 20.00 Reception by Lieutenant General J.A. van Diepenbrugge, Commander 1 (GE/NL) Corps followed by drinks and dinner

Day 2

09.00 – 09.30 Welcome with coffee

Part 5: The Superpowers

09.30 – 09.50 The United States (priorities, tasks, preparations, exercises, etc.) (Dr Donald C. Carter, U.S. Army Center of Military History, Fort McNair, United States of America)

09.50 – 10.10 The Soviet Union (ditto) (Dr Mikhail G. Lyoshin, Institute of Military History, Moscow, Russia)

10.10 – 10.30 Discussion

10.30 – 11.00 Coffee break

Part 6: The German Adversaries

11.00 – 11.20 The Federal Republic of Germany (Dr Helmut R. Hammerich, Militärgeschichtliches Forschungsamt, Potsdam, Germany)

11.20 – 11.40 The German Democratic Republic (Dr Torsten Diedrich, Militärgeschichtliches Forschungsamt, Potsdam, Germany)

11.40 – 12.00 Discussion

12.00 – 13.30 Lunch

Part 7: The Northern Army Group

13.30 – 13.50 The United Kingdom (Dr Bob Evans, Army Historical Branch, London, United Kingdom)

13.50 – 14.10 Belgium (Dr Jean-Michel Sterkendries, Royal Military School, Brussels, Belgium)

14.10 – 14.30 The Netherlands (Prof. Dr Jan Hoffenaar, Netherlands Institute of Military History, The Hague, Netherlands)

14.30 – 14.50 Discussion

14.50 – 15.15 Coffee break

Part 8: Concluding Remarks and Close

15.15 – 15.45 Summary lecture (Dr Gregory W. Pedlow, Chief of the Historical Office at the Supreme Headquarters Allied Powers of Europe, Mons, Belgium)

15.45 – 16.00 Closure

16.00 – 17.00 Drinks